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Katmandu

TERRIE SMITH ©96

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VISION COMICS

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Katmondu

WHEN WARRIORS DIE

Part One

STORY: CAROLE CURTIS
PENCILS: TERRIE SMITH
INKS: MARK BARNARD
BACKGROUNDS: ED GARCIA
LETTERS: TED VOLLMER
ADD. BACKGROUNDS:
MICHELLE COBLE

WILL YOU MISS ME?

OF COURSE. BUT WITH THAT NEW RANKING, YOU'LL HAVE A LOT OF MEN TO PROTECT YOU.

VELITE TERRITORY- HOME OF JERUSH & MAHRI MIDDLESMITH

IT'S ONLY A GUILD DISAGREEMENT. WE'RE JUST THERE FOR SECURITY. I'LL BE FINE.

THIS TIME / GET TO BE LISKA!

SO? / GET TO BE PYNDAN!

I *AM* PROUD YOU'RE LEADING THIS EXPEDITION. WHERE WILL YOU BE STATIONED?

ONE OF THE MINING CAMPS IN THE WHITE RIVER AREA.

INTERESTING. YOU KNOW LISKA'S TRIBE LIVED NEAR THERE.

THE LISKA? WHOM OUR CUBS CAN'T HEAR ENOUGH ABOUT?

YES. I *KNEW* WHERE WE WERE GOING. I JUST WANTED TO HEAR *YOU* SAY IT.

AND WHAT DO *YOU* HAVE PLANNED FOR WHITE RIVER?

USING *MY* HEALING SKILLS ON BASE. IS IT *REALLY* JUST A SMALL UPRISING? I DETECT MORE IN YOUR VOICE.

I DON'T KNOW. I SMELL A LITTLE MORE TROUBLE THAN THEY'RE SAYING. WE'LL SEE.

WELL, WHO'S HE GOING OFF TO KILL *THIS* TIME?

FATHER! THAT WAS UNCALLED FOR!

WHO'S DADDY GONNA FIGHT, *MOMMA?*

HE'S NOT GOING TO FIGHT ANYONE, KEMAL.

THAT'S RIGHT, HE'S A PEACEKEEPER. HE'LL HELP PEOPLE IN WHITE RIVER.

WHITE RIVER?

THAT'S WHERE GAMMA LISKA LIVED!

WILL WE *SEE* GAMMA LISKA?

NO- BUT I'LL TELL YOU A STORY ABOUT HER. . .

ARE THEY *DONE* YET? I'M HUNGRY!

QUIET, DARMIN! YOU'LL WAKE THEIR BIRD!

OH *NO!*

RIAL! RIAL! RIAL!

IS THAT BIRD *EVER* GOING TO DIE?

RIAL- WE HAVE COMPANY ANYWAY-

UH-OHH---

SHOO! LEAVE THEM ALONE!

YES, MOTHER SHAYGIN!

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU NEED, MY HUSBAND?

JUST SOME PRIVACY, WIFE.

VERY WELL! I'LL TAKE THESE SCAMPS DOWN TO HELP WITH WASHING.

BEING BIG WITH KITTEN AGREES WITH SHAYGIN.

I THINK SO TOO. I MAY KEEP HER THAT WAY.

WHAT A PROVINCIAL ATTITUDE! WHAT IF I HAD BEEN THAT WAY WITH YOU?

I'M YOUR MATE, SHE'S MY WIFE! AND I'VE BORNE *you* FOUR KITS!

TRUE. IT TOOK A WHILE TO GET USED TO HAVING A MATE, NOT A WIFE---

RIAL, WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? I KNOW WHEN SOMETHING'S BOTHERING YOU.

I'VE BEEN THINKING.

YOU'VE BORE ME FOUR CHILDREN, BUT THEY'RE *YOUR* CHILDREN. THEY'RE MITSEL-EMAN CLAN.

MOTHER SANNA'S BEEN TALKING TO YOU, TOO.

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A WIFE? I WON'T MIND.

STONEBREAKER'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT SELLING THAT LITTLE DARKHAIR SLAVE- THE VIRGIN?

I'D BUY HER, THEN FREE HER. I WANT A WIFE AND CHILDREN.

MOST OF OUR TRIBE THINK SHAYGIN'S KITS ARE YOURS.

HMF. GOOD THING MARKREE AGREED, SINCE SHE WANTED CHILDREN WITH *YOUR* BLOOD LINE.

YOU WOULDN'T TAKE A *SLAVE*, WOULD YOU?

IF YOU PLAN TO KEEP SHAYGIN BIG, YOU'D BETTER TALK TO HIM AGAIN.

RIGHT NOW, I WANT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE YOUR NEW WIFE.

THEY ARE *SO* FULL OF SPIRIT, SHAYGIN, I THINK I FEEL *THREE!*

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR LETTING MARKREE HELP, ELISHAA.

THE GODS MUST FAVOR YOU, MARKREE AND I HAVE ONLY HAD ONE.

HOW DID THAT WOMAN WARRIOR FATHER CHILDREN?

I SEE YOU'RE WEARING THAT NECKLACE LISKA GAVE YOU.

I CAN'T HELP IT. YOU KNOW I LOVE TO SHOW OFF.

BOOM BOOM

THAT'S A WAR COUNCIL DRUM!

DRUMS. IT WOULD HAVE TO BE DRUMS. JUST WHEN I NEED REST.

AT LEAST WE HAD OUR TIME TOGETHER--

BOOM BOOM BOOM

UH-- DON'T YOU NEED TO BE STILL FOR A WHILE?

IT'S NOT *THAT* TIME OF THE MOON. BESIDES, IF THERE'S A WAR, I DON'T WANT TO BE PREGNANT!

GET DRESSED.

AS WAR CHIEFS WE *HAVE* TO BE THERE.

SUCH NOISE! YOU'LL CORRUPT ALL THE KITTENS IN OUR VILLE.

YOU JUST WISH YOU HAD A WIFE LIKE I DO!

I WONDER IF THIS MEETING IS ABOUT THAT GRAND COUNCIL THE CHIEF ATTENDED.

COULD BE. AT LEAST *SOME* OF US WERE READY.

SOME OF US WEREN'T INTERRUPTED.

AS YOU KNOW, MARKREE AND I ATTENDED A GRAND COUNCIL.

A DANGER FACES MANY OF OUR CLANS. I HAVE PLEDGED OUR TRIBE TO JOIN WITH OTHERS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

CHIEF, WHAT *IS* THIS DANGER?

ANOTHER WILL TELL YOU. MARKREE IS BRINGING HER NOW.

OH MY!

LOOK AT *THAT!*

MAKE ROOM! SCOOT OVER!

WELL! AT LEAST THERE'S *ONE* FEMALE IN THIS COUNCIL WITH ME!

SHE'S SO *LARGE!*

MY NAME IS HESTA.

I'M A WARRIOR AND A FREE TRADER- IN INFORMATION AS WELL AS GOODS.

THERE'S A CLAN NEAR WHITE RIVER THAT'S MINING DIAMONDS, METALS, AND OTHER THINGS. THEY'RE SELLING IT TO CITY TRADERS.

I WAS PASSING THROUGH THERE THREE MOONS AGO- THE FIRST TIME IN A SEASON'S TURN.

THEY HAD STRANGE NEW WORKERS...

LITTLE PEOPLE WITH ROUND EARS AND NAKED TAILS.

MINING HAD TRIPLED.

I ASKED ABOUT BUSINESS... *MY* MISTAKE. THE OLD CAT WAS IN HIS CUPS. HE TOLD ME TOO MUCH AND HIS FRIENDS OVERHEARD. I HAD TO FIGHT *MY* WAY OUT OF CAMP.

THEY CAN'T MINE FAST ENOUGH, SO THEY'RE MAKING SLAVE RAIDS. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HIT YET BECAUSE OF THE DISTANCE.

HOW SOON DO YOU THINK?

BY NEXT MOON AT LATEST. AND THERE'RE TOO MANY FOR YOU TO FIGHT ALONE.

WE WILL BE SENDING A WAR PARTY TO JOIN THE CLANS. THESE RAIDS MUST BE STOPPED. TELL YOUR WIVES TO PREPARE YOUR PACKS.

HESTA, WHERE ARE YOU BEDDING?

I DON'T KNOW. WHY?

YOU'RE WELCOME IN MY TENT. MY WIFE IS A GOOD COOK.

YOUR WIFE?

A WARRIOR NEEDS A WIFE TO COOK AND CLEAN.

HMM. HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT.

ARE WE HAVING COMPANY?

YES. THIS IS HESTA. SHE'S A BIG EATER.

I'M IMPRESSED!

HOW SOON DO YOU THINK?

BY NEXT MOON AT LATEST. AND THERE'RE TOO MANY FOR YOU TO FIGHT ALONE.

WE WILL BE SENDING A WAR PARTY TO JOIN THE CLANS. THESE RAIDS MUST BE STOPPED. TELL YOUR WIVES TO PREPARE YOUR PACKS.

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ARE WE HAVING COMPANY?

YES. THIS IS HESTA. SHE'S A BIG EATER.

I'M IMPRESSED!

THIS IS MY WIFE, SHAYGIN, THE BEST COOK IN OUR TRIBE.

WELCOME TO OUR FIRESIDE.

I SEE YOU'RE CARRYING. HOW SOON BEFORE YOU WHELP?

BY NEXT MOON.

I CAN'T WAIT. THEY'LL BE MINE AND LISKA'S FIRST.

THEN WHO'S KITS ARE THESE I SEE?

LISKA AND RIAL'S.

OH. SO THE BIG BLONDE IS FREE?

PELLEW, WHERE'S MOTHER SANNA?

ON THE RIDGE, MOTHER.

THE SUNSET'S BEAUTIFUL.

THEY ALWAYS HAVE BEEN.

YOU SPEND A LOT OF TIME UP HERE, MOTHER.

I ENJOY LOOKING AT OUR VILLAGE.

I WORRY ABOUT YOU. YOU'VE BEEN VERY SOLITARY LATELY.

NOT SO MUCH. I'VE BEEN TEACHING PANKA MY HEALING ARTS.

RIAL IS GOING TO TAKE WASIL TO WIFE.

I ALWAYS HOPED YOU TWO WOULD WED.

IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE, MOTHER. I COULDN'T BE HAPPY AS SOME MAN'S *WIFE*.

YOU MAKE A FINE WARRIOR AND HUSBAND, THOUGH. SHAYGIN IS VERY HAPPY. SO WHEN IS RIAL TO WED?

QUICKLY, I THINK.

THERE'S TO BE WAR. I'M SURE HE'LL WANT TO HAVE HER SETTLED IN BEFORE WE LEAVE.

MY BEST PACK LIZARD. DONE?

DONE! WASIL, YOUR NEW MASTER.

ARE YOU READY FOR WHAT WE SPOKE OF?

YES, MASTER.

THERE. YOU'RE FREE. NOW WE VISIT THE SENESCHAL.

RIAL, WHO WILL STAND WITH US?

LISKA AND PYNDAN, MY FELLOW WAR CHIEFS.

ARE YOU SURE *SHE* WILL AGREE?

OF COURSE, WE'VE DISCUSSED IT.

PYNDAN?

COME IN, LISKA. PANKA'S JUST HELPING ME PACK.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR FELLOW WARRIOR?

SHE REMINDS ME OF THAT RAIDING PARTY SO MANY YEARS AGO.

WHY DO YOU ASK? ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HER?

SHE *HAS* BEAUTIFUL EYES-

(SIGH) BUT I'VE HAD MY SIGHT ON SOMEONE ELSE FOR A WHILE-

IT'S RIAL. HE'S HERE WITH WASIL.

LET'S GO-

I WASN'T SURPRISED AT YOUR TRIBE HAVING A FEMALE WARRIOR.

OH?

BUT IT *IS* STRANGE THAT SHE HAS A WIFE.

MY LISKA IS A GOOD AND KIND HUSBAND. *ANY* WOMAN HERE WOULD WANT HER.

PHEW

LISKA! WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU.

SHAYGIN, PLEASE TELL PELLEW TO BRING THE KITTENS *AND* THEIR BEDDING INTO OUR TENT TONIGHT.

OH, WHY?

RIAL HAS TAKEN A WIFE. HE NEEDS NO MEWLING KITTENS AROUND TONIGHT.

RIAL MARRIED SOM'BODY ELSE?

WHY DIDN' *LISKA* MARRY HIM?

QUIET DOWN MY DARLINGS.

LISKA WOULD LOSE STATUS IF SHE BECAME A WIFE. AND THERE'S *MORE* TO THE STORY.

WHEN CAN WE HEAR IT, *MOMMA*? TONIGHT?

YEAH!

SOON. NOW SLEEP WELL. MOTHER'S GOING FOR A WALK.

THEY CAN'T HEAR ENOUGH ABOUT LISKA, CAN THEY, DAUGHTER?

NEITHER CAN MY THORIN.

BUT WHITE RIVER HAS NEVER HELD LUCK FOR US. THE WINDS OF WAR ARE BLOWING AND I AM *FRIGHTENED* FOR MY LOVE-

TO BE CONTINUED

KATMANDU

OH, WISE HELIOS, YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING *DIFFERENT* LATELY.

FELITTA, BEING KING OF THE TRICKSTERS ENTITLES ME TO CHANGE MY APPEARANCE. *BESIDES, MY FRIEND TERRIE OBJECTED TO MY PREVIOUS LOOK...*

"love notes"

STORY: CATHY CARTER
ART: CHUCK DAVIES
SHADING: CHRIS COCKING, Y.M.P.

AH! THINGS ARE HAPPENING BELOW!

WHAT IS IT, MY LORD?

THIS IS TOO GOOD TO TELL YOU, FELITTA... LET'S GO *WATCH* IT HAPPEN.

OOH... MINGLING WITH THE MORTALS...

WHERE ARE WE, MY LORD HELIOS?

AN ODD MORTAL CUSTOM -- A BEAUTY PAGEANT.

SEE THE REGAL LADY? HER NAME IS GLORIANNA, AND SHE'S JUST BEEN CROWNED WINTER BEAUTY QUEEN.

OF COURSE. SHE BELIEVES THAT NO ONE WILL LOOK BEYOND HER BEAUTY.

BUT SHE'S *UNHAPPY!*

SHE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE. THAT FLUTIST HAS RECENTLY LOST HIS LOVE. EVEN HIS FAME BRINGS HIM NO SOLACE.

NOW DIRECT HER ATTENTION TOWARDS HIM...

OH MY -- HIS HANDS ARE SO GRACEFUL --

PARDON ME SIR... I CAN'T HELP BUT ADMIRE YOUR PLAYING.

OH, YOU ENJOY THE FLUTE?

AH -- I WAS TALKING ABOUT YOUR HANDS. I'M TONE DEAF.

OH. I UNDERSTAND.

WELL, WOULD YOU CARE TO TAKE TEA AFTER THEY CROWN THE WINTER QUEEN?

SIR, I'M THE WINTER QUEEN. DIDN'T YOU SEE ME BEING CROWNED?

NO, MY DEAR. I LOST MY SIGHT YEARS AGO.

DON'T BE. IT DOESN'T STOP ME FROM TAKING TEA.

OH, I'M SORRY...

I'D BE DELIGHTED.

OH! LORD HELIOS! HOW COULD YOU! MATCH-MAKING BETWEEN A BLIND MUSICIAN AND A BEAUTIFUL, TONE-DEAF WOMAN!

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN, EVEN IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF. SHE'LL NEVER WONDER IF HE MARRIED HER FOR HER GREAT PHYSICAL BEAUTY, AND HE'LL KNOW SHE WASN'T SEDUCED BY THE MAGIC OF HIS MUSIC, BUT WANTED HIM PURELY FOR HIMSELF.

FIN

private place

RRRRUUUUMMBBBLLL...

STORY/LETTERS TED VOLLMER • ART DANN PHILLIPS • INKS STEVE ADDLESEE

KIO! OVER HERE, MY BOY!

COME, MEET MY SON, SETH!

GO AHEAD-- I'LL GET WARM AND MEET YOU LATER.

'KAY.

SO! I FINALLY GET TO MEET THE SON OF THE GREAT *TREY FUSH*!M--A...

SETH? WHAT'S WRONG, BOY?

HELLOOOO

S-SHE'S-- *BEAUTIFUL!*

THAT, MY FRIEND...

...IS A DANGEROUS PASTIME!

OH, I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARE- HONEST! ...SORRY!

THAT'S HIS WIFE, SON.

...MMHMM.

WHERE DID YOU MEET HER?

IN A POND.

OH--- HUM?

TELL HIM THE STORY, KIO- I HAVEN'T HEARD IT MYSELF IN YEARS!

WELL, IT WAS REALLY THE SOURCE OF A STREAM, FED BY A SPRING. IT MADE A LITTLE POOL WITH A WATERFALL.

AS IT WAS UP IN THE HILLS, NOT MANY KNEW OF IT, OR THOUGHT IT TOO HARD TO GET TO.

I WAS MUCH YOUNGER THEN. I WORKED AS A COURT COURIER FOR THE CITY. AFTER HAVING TO DEAL WITH RUDE PEOPLE, I WENT THERE TO RELAX AND PLAY MY FLUTE TO THE SOUND OF THE FALLING WATER.

IT WAS "MY" PLACE...

"BUT ONE DAY, I WAS ON MY WAY THERE, WHEN I HEARD....."

SINGING?

BUT WHO...? AND WHY HERE, IN MY PLACE?

"I CREPT UP TO THE BRUSH SURROUNDING THE POOL AND PEERED THROUGH. MY EXPRESSION WAS PROBABLY THE SAME AS YOURS..."

'..AS I BEHELD A VISION SO LOVELY, IT TOOK MY BREATH AWAY.'

"I CAME UP THAT HILL IN ANGER, BUT NOW FELT ONLY ADMIRATION FOR THIS, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FEMALE I'D EVER SEEN, OR EVER WILL.'

WHEN I OPENED MY EYES...

"I COULDN'T JUST WALK UP AND ANNOUNCE MYSELF. SHE DESERVED HER DIGNITY. BUT HOW COULD I MEET HER WITHOUT LETTING HER KNOW I'D SEEN HER AS SHE WAS?"

AN IDEA!...

'MY EYES CLOSED IN CONCENTRATION, I WOVE A MELODY AROUND HER VOICE. I PLAYED THE MOST IMPORTANT MUSIC OF MY LIFE...

HERS!

AT FIRST, WE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING...

"I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE WHEN SHE STOPPED!"

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

THIS IS MY PLACE.

WHO ARE YOU?

YOU FIRST.

HA-HA...

STOP IT!

HA-HA-HA...

.....

HA-HA-HA-HA...

I'M SENCHAI.

I'M KIO.

NICE TO MEET YOU!

OH, SURE! *GIGGLE* VERY FUNNY!

THEN...

"OUR MUTUAL LAUGHTER SEALED OUR FRIENDSHIP. WE DID EVERYTHING TOGETHER. WE COULD TALK ABOUT ANYTHING. WE EVEN TALKED ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS WE HAD WITH OTHERS. THERE WERE NO SECRETS BETWEEN US."

"WE HAD BEEN MEETING AT 'OUR' PLACE FOR MONTHS. I HAD BROUGHT SOME CANDY THAT SHE LIKED, AND, AS SHE LEANED ACROSS TO GET IT..."

"WHEN WAS IT LOVE?"

I GUESS WE ALWAYS LOVED EACH OTHER. WE JUST DIDN'T REALIZE IT UNTIL I DID A SIMPLE THING. I STOLE A KISS.

I GAVE HER JUST A QUICK KISS ON HER CHEEK. IT FELT SO NATURAL, SO 'RIGHT.'

'THEN SHE GAVE ME THE STRANGEST LOOK... SHE LOOKED, *SAD!* SAD THAT I HAD KISSED HER!'

GODDESS! WHAT HAD I DONE? WE HAD A FRIENDSHIP THAT OTHERS ONLY DREAMED OF. AND I RUINED IT WITH A SINGLE KISS.

"I WANTED TO CRAWL INTO A HOLE AND DIE!"

"THEN, SHE DID SOMETHING I'LL NEVER FORGET..."

'WHEN SHE RAISED HER HAND TO MY FACE, IT WASN'T TO STRIKE ME AS I THOUGHT, BUT TO RAISE MY EYES TO HERS. SHE HAD THE SWEETEST SMILE ON HER FACE.'

'SHE LEANED CLOSE AND GAVE ME A LONG, TENDER KISS. I THINK I'LL FEEL THAT FIRST KISS AS LONG AS I LIVE!'

BUT WHY WAS SHE SAD? WHY WAS SHE CRYING?

I ASKED THE SAME QUESTION. SHE SAID...

I SAID...

'AS MY KISS WELCOMED A LOVER, SO MY TEARS BID FAREWELL TO A BROTHER.'

HELLO, TREY. WHO'S YOUR WIDE-EYED FRIEND?

SENCHAI, THIS IS SETH, TREY'S SON.

SETH? I'VE HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOU FROM YOUR FATHER. PLEASE, CALL ME "SENNI".

I -UM- UH.. PLEASED -UH- MEET.. UM, UH..

SON, YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME!

I CAN'T TAKE YOU ANYWHERE, CAN I?

ME!?

END

From the Scratching Post

Katmandu
P.O. Box 2452
Conway AR 72032

Hello, everyone!

It's great to be back. ConFurence 7 was fun even though I was having a reaction to a flu shot. I really enjoyed seeing old friends, and making new ones.

For new readers, I write the main story in my creation, *Katmandu*, Terrie Smith does the absolutely wonderful art, and Mark Barnard's inks add the final touches.

***Katmandu* comes out three times a year, in a three-issue miniseries. Each main story involves Leahtrah Middlesmith, a Velite healer, and her Hoplite soldier husband, Thorin Leonius. From issue #4 on, we also have some of the history of Leahtrah's ancestor, Liska, who lived about 200 years before Leahtrah. Much of Liska's story is based on Native American life.**

If you'd like to write, please do. If you enclose a business-sized SASE, we'll answer and send enclosures.

Enjoy!
Carole

Dear Terrie,

I received *Katmandu* issue 6 about a week ago, and I have to compliment you, Carole, and Mark on another job well done. This was a fabulous conclusion to the current sagas of Leahtrah and Thorin and Liska and Rial.

First of all, I would like to compliment you on the cover art to issue 6, which I personally feel is the best one you have done for this series so far. Liska's whole body, not just her face, displays her determination to get back Rial as she is dressed by Shaygin and Elishaa. A beautiful cover overall.

Your art, once again, was superb throughout this issue.

A special tip of the hat to Carole for bringing back Milia and Chasne from way back in the companion story of *Katmandu* issue 1.

It was great to finally meet Thorin's family in this issue.

Markree has grown up to become a handsome young man. Mark did an exceptionally good job with his inks here. The way that Carole has written Markree in this issue, as a young adolescent male, is dead on target. The look of delight on his face when he finds out what he and his big sister have won and the look of happy expectation when he asks Mother Sanna which one, Shaygin or Elishaa, he sleeps with are perfect as is the dialogue he uses.

I like the little jokes Carole has written into this issue, such as the one between Thorin and Leahtrah where he asks her if she's nervous about meeting his family. But I especially liked the one where Shaygin and Elishaa openly discuss in front of Liska how attractive they both find her. The look of discomfort on Liska's face at this frank discussion between these two women is precious.

I howled at the scene Carole wrote for page 13. It's just like a little brother to barge into his older sister's room while she's changing clothes without knocking and be completely oblivious to the embarrassment he causes her.

Carole also wrote a very touching scene between Liska and Shaygin. When Shaygin explains that she is Liska's wife in all ways save one, she implies two meanings. First, she is Liska's wife except for being joined with her by a formal ceremony and second (and I may be completely off with this one) that she is Liska's wife except for sharing a physical relationship.

It is clear that Shaygin has come to love Liska By her words, her expression and by the way she scratches her under her chin Liska makes it clear she loves Shaygin as well.

It was also a nice touch, Carole, to have Shaygin and Elishaa both purring in pleasure. I'm glad you decided to include this aspect of their nature in the story.

"The Waiting": Carol Osman's story was okay and Charles Ettinger's art was good.

Since I haven't said enough about Mark, I'll say so now- Mark, I have loved your inks throughout the entire six issues of *Katmandu* thus far. I feel you do the best job of bringing out Terrie Smith's pencils of any of the inkers who have inked her work. It is my sincerest hope that your professional relationship will be a long and fruitful one.

Boyce Gerald Kline
New London, CT

Guys,

Kudos for a fantastic book! I just finished rereading my copies of *Katmandu* for at least the fiftieth time.

The art keeps getting better, the story line is great and I just love the whole idea.

Is the society of the highland people based on Native Americans? **[Yes. C]**

Liska has proven to be a really interesting character I would like to see more of Markree and Mother Sanna, though.

Isabel Stafurik
Brookline, MA

Dear Terrie,

Congratulations for another fine issue of *Katmandu*! You really put your heart into your art. The cover art with Mother Sanna being held at knife point by a bandit (with Liska in shadow form behind the bandit) was truly eye-catching! Furthermore, Carole (story) Curtis & Mark (inks) Barnard are, likewise, to be congratulated for making this a fabulous piece of work.

Oh yes, the story & art by Cathy Carter and Shea Ryan titled "Oh, Brother!" was simply hilarious! Hmm, it reminds me to be extra good to my own sister (smile)!

Richard
North Arlington, NJ

Dear Mike and Carole,

Let me know as soon as *Katmandu: When Warriors Die* comes out, I don't want to miss an issue of it. Kat #6 was great, I'd love to have Shaygin and Elishaa Warm my bed any time The look on Liska's face was funny.

Where & how did you get your background info to write your story about Liska's life? **[I spend a lot of time at the library doing research. C.]** I love the concept of a story within a story. It's a great idea. Who's that in the picture on the last page? Is that Terrie?

George Ferrocarril
Danville, IL

Hi, Folks

I think I'd have to say that my favorite character so far has been Sanna--don't ask why, but I <u>like</u> her. I guess it's due to her no-nonsense "I'm the matron!" attitude. She'd get my respect, <u>that's</u> for sure!

I like the way you've handled the question of sexuality here so far- the implication is that Liska and Sanna probably do have relations with Shaygin (after Liska's initial shock) <u>but</u> - it's never <u>really</u> made clear, others accept it after some initial skepticism, and it's clear that <u>love</u> is more important. This is some very nice, subtle and mature writing, and a subject our culture seldom handles well.

Steve Corbett
Tucson, AZ

✧Shanda Fan Mart✧

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Katmandu: the XXX Files

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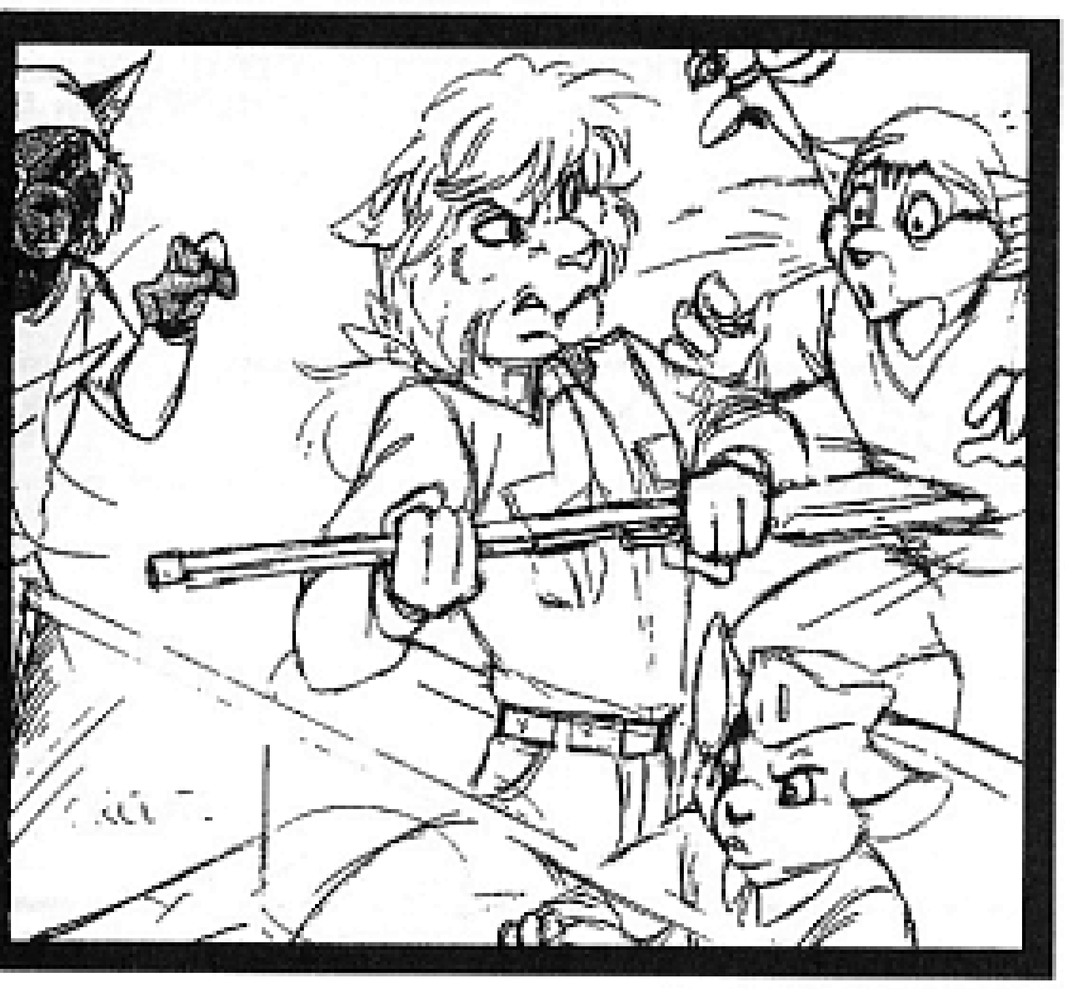

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